

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SCCT-01 AID-05 CU-02 /084 W

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P R 121649Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2414

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1139

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJ: STUDENT OUTBREAK

1. VIOLENCE AT UNIVERSITIES OF ALGIERS AND CONSTANTINE APPARENTLY BROKE OUT MAY 9-10; OCCASION SEEMED TO BE ELECTIONS OF DELEGATES TO MAY 19 NATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS. FEW DETAILS AVAILABLE TO US, BUT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES GIVE ESTIMATE OF BETWEEN ONE AND TEN DEAD IN ALGIERS AND AT LEAST ONE GRAVELY WOUNDED OR DEAD IN CONSTANTINE. FRENCH SOURCE SAYS FACULTY OF LAW IN ALGIERS CLOSED TODAY MAY 12 AND UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANTINE NOW CLOSED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

2. THEORIES FOR REASONS FOR VIOLENCE ABOUND. FRENCH SOURCE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT CONSTANTINE VIOLENCE REFLECTED SPLIT IN UNIVERSITY BETWEEN TRADITIONALIST GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO SUPPORT ARABISATION AND OLD WAYS ON ONE HAND AND ACTIVE POLITICALLY-ORIENTED VOLONTARIAT PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE RUNNING ELECTIONS AND ARE THEREFORE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE RESULTS ON OTHER.

3. ALGIERS SCENARIO LESS CLEAR. IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONALIST AND POLITICIZED ELEMENTS, ALLEGEDLY THERE IS THIRD GROUP, REFERRED TO AS THE "EXTREME LEFT", WHICH IS SAID TO RESENT
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ELECTIONS AS REPRESENTING SIMPLE CHARADE TO DEMONSTRATE

YOUTH SUPPORT FOR BOUMEDIENE. IN ADDITION, THERE IS SUPPOSEDLY A "BOURGEOIS" INDIFFERENT GROUP WHO ALSO RESENT RIGGED ELECTIONS WHICH INEVITABLY WILL PRODUCE DOCILE PRO-NDBOUMEDIENE SLATE FOR CONGRESS.

4. STUDENTS HAVE ACTED UP IN PAST, MOST RECENTLY IN 1972, AND EXPECTATION THAT THERE MIGHT BE DIFFICULTIES REPORTEDLY ELIMINATED USUAL INVITATIONS TO FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS TO SEND OVSERVER DELEGATIONS TO CONGRESS. EARLIER REPORTS OF YOUTH DISCONTENT BROUGHT BOUMEDIENE OUT TO OBSERVE LYCEE ELECTION ON MAY 5; PICTURE OF HIS ATTENDANCE FEATURED IN BOTH ARABIC AND FRENCH PRESS. THIS DEMONSTRATION OF PERSONAL ATTENTION APPARENTLY DID NOT DISSUADE MALCONTENTS; HE APPARENTLY HAD STEERED CLEAR OF UNIVERSITY.

5. YOUTH AFFAIRS TRADITIONALLY SLIGHTLY DISORGANIZED ELEMENT IN ALGERIAN BODY POLITIC, WITH FLN AND MINISTRY OF YOUTH QUARRELING OVER WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. ONE POSSIBLE RESULT OF CURRENT INCIDENT IS THAT GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO STEP IN AND IMPOSE FIRM (POSSIBLY MILITARY-RUN) ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE THE DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL BELIEVED NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS REMEMBER WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ALGERIAN MACHINE AND WHERE IT IS GOING.
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